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States Rights Verses Age of Majority

Military Service Age

In the United States, the minimum age for voluntary enlistment in the military is 17 with parental consent and 18 without parental consent. This applies to all branches of the military, including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

Voting Age

The legal voting age in the United States is 18. This was established by the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which was ratified in 1971. The

amendment lowered the voting age from 21 to 18, largely in response to arguments that those old enough to be drafted for military service should also have the right to vote.

Drinking Age

The legal drinking age in the United States is 21. This was established by the National Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984, which required states to raise their minimum drinking age to 21 or face a reduction in federal highway funds. The law was enacted to reduce alcohol-related traffic fatalities among young people.

These age requirements reflect societal views on maturity and responsibility, balancing the rights and privileges of young adults with considerations for public safety and civic participation.